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Wichita-Sedgwick County Metropolitan Area Planning Department

April 12, 2005

The Honorable Vernon Williams, Secretary Surface Transportation Board 1925 K Street, N. W., Suite 715 Washington, DC 20423-0001 ENTERED
Office of Proceedings

APR 13 2005

Part of Public Record

Re: The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company Abandonment Exemption - In the Wichita, Kansas Trackage and between Wichita and Valley Center, Kansas. STB Docket No. AB-6 (Sub No. 403X).

Dear Secretary Williams:

The Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway Company filed for abandonment of the Wichita, Kansas trackage from Milepost 494.22 to Milepost 505.20. The right of way is part of a line of railroad proposed for abandonment in STB Docket No. AB-6 (Sub No. 403X). The City of Wichita has previously submitted a Statement of Willingness to Assume Financial Responsibility on a portion of the Wichita, Kansas Trackage from Milepost 494.22 to Milepost 504.00.

The City of Wichita is now requesting that the STB allow it to extend its Statement of Willingness to Assume Financial Responsibility on the Wichita, Kansas Trackage from Milepost 494.22 to Milepost 504.05, an additional distance of 0.05 mile or approximately 260 feet. This extension will allow the City of Wichita to extend the railbanking of the Wichita, Kansas Trackage to the west side of Hydraulic Street.

STATEMENT OF WILLINGNESS TO ASSUME FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY: In order to establish interim trail use and rail banking under Section 8(d) of the National Trails System Act, 16 U.S.C. 1247(d) and 49 C.F.R. 1152.29, the City of Wichita is willing to assume full responsibility for the management of, for any legal liability arising out of the transfer of use of (unless the user is immune from liability in which case it need only indemnify BNSF against any potential liability), and for the payment of any and all taxes that may be levied or assessed against the right-of-way owned and operated by The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company with respect to that portion of the

right-of-way in Sedgwick County, Kansas, and described in the preceding paragraph of this letter.

A map depicting the right-of-way is attached.

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The City of Wichita acknowledges that the use of the right-of-way is subject to the user's continuing to meet its responsibilities described above and subject to possible future reconstruction and reactivation of the right-of-way for rail service. A copy of this statement is being served on the railroad on the same date it is being served on the Board.

By my signature below, I certify service upon The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company, at 2600 Lou Menk Drive, 3rd Floor, Forth Worth, Texas 76131, by U. S. Mail; postage prepaid, first class, this 12th day of April, 2005.

Respectfully submitted,

John L. Schlegel Director of Planning

On behalf of the City of Wichita

City of Wichita 455 North Main Street Wichita, Kansas 67202



